

In re Patent Application of
NELSON ET AL.
Serial No. 10/733,739
Filed: **DECEMBER 11, 2003**

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application and for correctly withdrawing the prior rejection. Based upon the arguments presented below, all claims are believed to be patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to an electrical power generating apparatus including a housing, an electrical generator within the housing, and a turbine for driving the electrical generator. The electrical power generating apparatus further includes an alternating current (AC) step-up transformer within the housing and connected to the electrical generator. Independent Claim 21 is a method counterpart to Claim 1. Independent Claims 12 and 17 are similar to Claim 1.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 17, and 21 over the U.S. Patent No. 4,302,291 to Severs et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,096 to Du Pleiss et al. The Severs et al. patent discloses a nuclear power plant structure 10 for an underwater nuclear power generating plant including three distinct spheres 150, 180, 190 for housing essential equipment. (Figure 2). The Severs et al. patent discloses the diameter of each sphere being 150 feet. (Col. 5, lines 61-63). Figure 2 of the Severs et al. patent is reproduced below.

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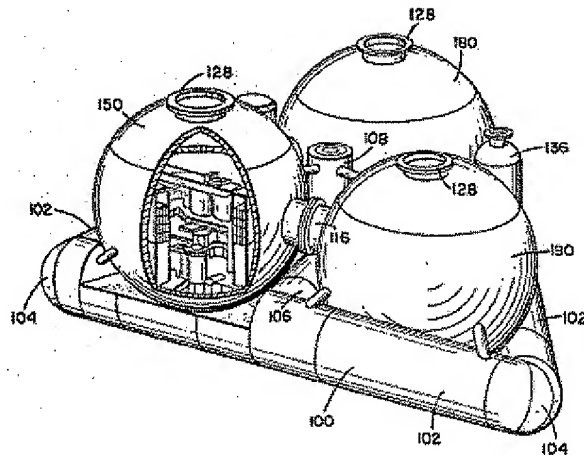


Figure 2 of the Severs et al. Patent

The Severs et al. patent discloses an electrical generator and a main step-up transformer located in the generating sphere 180 and support sphere 190, respectively. The Severs et al. patent discloses a support sphere 190 intended to house nuclear power plant personnel with included oxygen generation system, fire suppression system, carbon dioxide removal system, communication system, stability control system, sea bed navigation system, and compressed air system. (Col. 12, line 36 : Col. 14, line 29). The Severs et al. patent further discloses that the power for these numerous critical systems is derived from the transformers being located in the support sphere 190. (Col. 12, lines 10-18).

The Examiner correctly notes that the Severs et al. patent does not disclose a transformer within the generator's housing, as recited in independent Claims 1, 12, 17, and 21. The Examiner looks to the Du Pleiss et al. patent to disclose

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the above highlighted claim recitation. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has improperly combined the Severs et al. patent and the Du Pleiss et al. patent. As discussed above, the Severs et al. patent discloses the positioning of the transformers in the support sphere 190 as being necessary to the operation of the underwater power plant structure 10. There is no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to move the critical transformers in the Severs et al. patent to the generating sphere 180, as suggested by the Examiner. In fact, the Severs et al. patent teaches away from this combination by disclosing modular power plant design, suggesting a generating sphere 180, support sphere 190, and reactor sphere 150. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 12, 17 and 21 are patentable over the prior art for this reason alone.

Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to piece together two prior references in wholly disparate fields of technology. The Severs et al. patent relates to an underwater nuclear power plant with disclosed dimensions of several hundred feet. Whereas, the Du Pleiss et al. patent relates to a petrol powered power generation unit of significantly smaller dimensions.

Accordingly, because of the above highlighted deficiencies of the prior art, independent Claims 1, 12, 17 and 21 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing

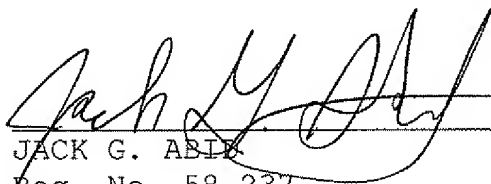
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features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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